

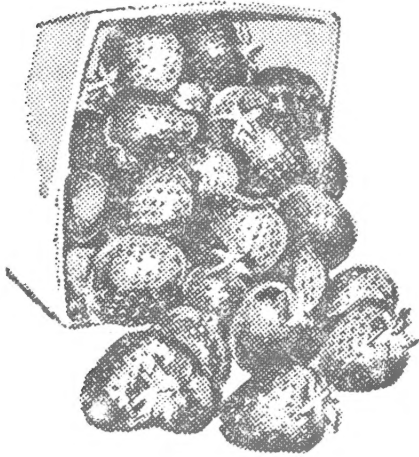
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# Hagerstrom Strawberry Nursery

Enfield, Minnesota



Information For Growing The Hager-  
strom "Red Rich" Everbearing  
Strawberry.

# How To Grow Strawberries



## CLIMATE

Strawberries are grown from Florida to Alaska successfully

## SOILS AND FERTILIZERS

Both heavy and light soils may grow good crops. Soils should be well drained and contain a large amount of humus for best results.

## HOW TO PREPARE LAND

Select a site that has good air drainage to avoid late spring and early fall frosts.

Land that has been in sod the previous year should be avoided because of white grubs.

If possible plan your crop two years in advance, plow under a crop of clover, alfalfa, or sweet clover and grow a cultivated crop the following year in order to clean out weeds. If manure is added it would be better to add it to the field before the cultivated crop (potatoes, corn, or similar crop) is grown.

## WHEN AND WHERE TO ORDER PLANTS

Order your plants early. It permits the plant grower to plan for orderly shipment of plants in the spring.

## WHEN TO PLANT

Plant as early in the spring as soil can be properly worked for best results. Order your plants to arrive when the normal time for working the land occurs in your area.

## CARE OF PLANTS ON ARRIVAL

If possible set plants immediately. If this is not possible heel the plants in a trench. The trench should be in a shaded spot and dug in a V shape. Plants should be removed from the bundle and placed in the trench with roots spread out and tops of crown level with ground line. Several layers of plants may be set together. The roots should be covered with soil and well watered and packed to prevent drying out until plants are to be set out.

Plants should be set so that the top of the crown (which is the fleshy part of plant from which new leaves unfold) is even with the ground surface.

### **PLANT DISTANCES**

Plants should be set in rows about 3½ feet apart and about 24 inches apart in the row. Runner plants should be spaced about 8 inches apart. This calls for much patience and work but plants properly spaced will result in maximum yields especially in the everbearing variety. It also results in a much higher quality of fruit.

### **COMMERCIAL FERTILIZERS**

Summer application of nitrate fertilizer may be desirable to stimulate plant growth. The fertilizer should be placed alongside the plants and must be thoroughly washed in by irrigation or rains. If rains do not come and irrigation is not available this treatment may even be harmful. In general we have found no increased benefits of fertilizers (nitrates, phosphate, or potash) to our soils.

### **LIME APPLICATIONS**

Strawberries prefer an acid soil. Applications of lime have been found generally harmful to plants in this area. The optimum pH for strawberry plants ranges from 5.7 to 6.0 according to those who have investigated this phase of strawberry production.

### **MULCHING**

Mulching should be applied for two main purposes. 1. To keep the fruit free from soil. 2. To protect the plants in winter from low temperature injury. In addition mulch helps to hold down weeds and conserves moisture.

Mulch should be selected that is free from weeds. Good marsh hay, rye straw, and shredded corn have been used satisfactorily. Recently growers of everbearing strawberries have been using ground corn cobs and sawdust to protect berries from the soil. For winter covering 3 to 5 tons of straw or marsh hay per acre should be used.

For a fall crop, mulch should be worked in around plants as

soon as berries start to form, to keep them clean.

For winter protection mulch should be applied when temperatures are apt to go below 16 degrees. Listen for radio weather reports. If considerable warm weather follows an early low temperature plants may have to be uncovered and then re-covered when low temperatures finally arrive to stay.

## **INSECT AND DISEASE CONTROL**

Plants that are in blossom or are fruiting should not be sprayed.

Insects that are sometimes very injurious to strawberries such as leaf roller and strawberry weevil may be controlled by spraying. Arsenate of Lead at rate of 2 lbs. to 50 gal. water applied as soon as first leaves appear in the spring and repeated once or twice at 7 to 10 day intervals until blossoms appear, this should control the leaf roller.

The strawberry weevil cuts the blossoming stems and may be avoided by rotating fields. It may be controlled by spraying planting as soon as blossom buds appear with D.D.T. at rate of about 1 pound of actual D.D.T. to the acre. For control of other strawberry insects refer to the agricultural college in your area.

Foliage diseases have not been a problem on the "Red Rich" variety.

## **HARVESTING AND MARKETING**

Berries should be carefully handled to prevent bruising. They should be picked for market before they are dark red.

The berry should be picked by pinching the stem about an inch from the berry and only one or two berries should be held in the hand at one time before placing them in the box.

Crates of berries should be kept in a cool shaded place until marketed.

A planting that is picked regularly will not be apt to have too ripe berries. Everbearing strawberries are best marketed in a pint box.